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DELUSIONS AS TO THE DIET

How the Public is Misled Often in
Doing Marketing—Report of
George K. Holmes.

George K. Holmes, chief of division of foreign markets, bureau of statistics, of the department of agriculture, prepared for the year-book of the department a treatise on the peculiarities of consumers in their systems of marketing and the delusions they allow themselves to be placed under or blunder into themselves. The digest has been printed in pamphlet form under the title of "Consumers' Fancies."

The pamphlet points out the mistake people of small means make in always selecting the choice, or most expensive, cuts of meats, when many of the unsought cheaper parts of the animal are equally or even more nutritious. It quotes a meat trade's journal on recent prices as follows: Porter house steak, 20 cents; prime rib, 15 cents; sirloin, 12½ cents; round 8 cents; rump, 7 cents; neck pieces, about 3 cents a pound, respectively. It comments in the following strain:

"Although epicureans admit and chemists demonstrate that the neck piece is toothsome and nutritious, it bears the lowest price. In fact, it would hardly be considered respectable to ask the butcher for a piece of the neck. Perhaps a low order of proficiency in the housewife's cooking in the past gave the neck piece its low place. The story might have been different had the housewife of former times possessed the French housewife's ability to utilize meats in the making of attractive and delicious dishes." The point of the argument is that cheap cuts are as good as dear when judiciously selected and properly cooked.

The pamphlet also treats of the delusion that exists in the terms applied to various subsistence commodities by which their sale is influenced. Note the following: "The amount of 'Canada' lamb sold in the United States is enormous. The word 'Canada' has the same magical effect upon lamb prices that the word 'Philadelphia' has upon spring poultry or that of 'Long Island' on fresh eggs. These fictions seem to sell the product, and the eating public appears to feel satisfied. By tacking the word Canada onto his product the butcher is enabled to get two cents more per pound for it, or, if he adheres to the normal prices, his customers think they are getting something unusual for their money. In certainly five per cent. of the cases they are getting plain domestic lamb, and about 50 times out of 100 are not getting lamb at all, but mere mutton."

Many other commodities are set forth under the respective delusive titles with the same unreserved treatment of the deceptions practiced in regard to them.

Odd Prescriptions.

Dr. William Osler, in one of his Baltimore lectures, recites a quaint old cure for the gout—a cure from a seventeenth century work, that was designed to show gout's hopelessness. "First pick," said this odd cure, "a handkerchief from the pocket of a spinster of 35 who never wished to wed; second, wash the handkerchief in an honest miller's pond, third, dry it on the hedge of a person who was never covetous; fourth, send it to the shop of a physician who never killed a patient; fifth, mark it with a lawyer's ink who never cheated a client; and, sixth, apply it, hot, to the gout-tormented spot. A speedy cure will follow."

Long Farming Records.

Some of the farmers in France have long pedigrees. The French Agricultural society had offered a prize for the farmer of longest standing in the Seine Inferieure. This brought to the front an old farmer named Liot, who, besides proving that he was the doyen of his district, produced documents showing that the farm had been in his family for 227 years. In another neighboring district a farmer named Bernage produced a pedigree of 217 years. Such instances of long descent are far from uncommon in France.

Authority.

Bill—Blank says there's no sentiment in business.
Bang—He ought to know; he married for his money.—Detroit Free Press.

REVIVAL OF ASIA'S PRESTIGE

Swing of the Pendulum of Ascendancy Between East and West—History Repeats Itself.

It is now more than twenty-three hundred years since Herodotus expounded to the assembled Greeks his celebrated theory that the cardinal fact in history was the interaction of Asia and Europe, the pendulum of ascendancy swinging now to the east and now to the west, says the New York Sun. From the fall of Troy to the memorable land and sea fight at Mykale he depicted many vicissitudes, but of course he could not foresee that the grandsons of the men who heard him would witness the destruction of the Persian empire by Alexander and the penetration of India by the Macedonian phalanx. As little could the western peoples, which in the nineteenth century despoiled and insulted China and wrenched open the gates of Japan, have expected that in the course of a few decades a far eastern nation would exhibit a degree of military and naval efficiency unsurpassed, if equaled, in the annals of mankind.

Had our memories been more tenacious, none of us would have taken for granted, as most of us have, that Asia was beyond the hope of resurrection, doomed to permanent prostration under the European heel. Such, undoubtedly, was the delusion in which the eastern subjects of the Roman empire long abided, although such defeats as those of Crassus and Vallerian ought to have excited deep misgivings. Everybody imagined that the oriental wave had spent itself when Hannibal was routed at Zama, and nobody could have anticipated that, from the second half of the seventh to near the close of the seventeenth century, Europe would be haunted with the dread of Asiatic invasion and conquest. Yet more than a thousand years were to elapse from the seizure of Roman Syria by a successor of Mohammed to Sobieski's repulse of the Turks before the walls of Vienna. Of all Aryan countries Russia had least reason to arrogate an innate superiority over the Turanian stock. The grand dukes of Muscovy had been paying tribute for two centuries to the Mongol rulers of the Golden Horn when the Turks took Constantinople, and some three and a half centuries more were to elapse before the Russians regained control of the Crimea. Even China in the seventeenth century, when the Manchu dynasty was young, drove Muscovite pioneers and merchants out of Manchuria and forced them by treaty to retire behind the Amur river. History, therefore, will but repeat itself when Russia submits to similar boundaries at the command of the Japanese.

HAT USED FOR DECORATION

First Made Use Of for That as Well as Protection—Custom in Korea.

Discouraging on the subject of hats, an antiquary expressed the opinion that the hat was first used quite as much for decoration as for protection.

The ancestor of all hats he considers to have been the fillet or band round the hair worn by the ancient Greeks, among others.

Probably the first hint gained by men regarding head ornaments was through observing the crests, plumes and antlers of various birds and beasts.

The eastern races, with their fondness for ceremony and display, afford the most notable instances of the use of hats as signs of rank and authority. Thus in Buddhist countries the gods are represented as wearing elaborate forms of headgear. In Korea the fashion attains its height, no fewer than 50 kinds of hats being worn by the natives as indications of their social position.

Special Terms.

"And have you any special terms for summer girls when they come in a party?" asked the pretty brunette in the mountain hotel.

"Yes, indeed," responded the clerk, suavely.

"And what are they?"
"Peaches and dears."—Chicago Daily News.

Medals for Old Couples.

Prussia presents medals to those couples who celebrate either their diamond or golden wedding.

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